

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL CALGARY

AMCONSUL HALIFAX

AMCONSUL MONTREAL

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMCONSUL QUEBEC

AMCONSUL ST JOHNS

AMCONSUL TORONTO

AMCONSUL VANCOUVER

AMCONSUL WINNIPEG

UNCLAS STATE 022795

E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJECT: GREAT LAKES WATER QUALITY AGREEMENT

1. GREAT LAKES WATER QUALITY AGREEMENT OF 1972 PROVIDED

THAT BOTH US AND CANADA WOULD HAVE PROGRAMS FOR THE ABATE-
MENT AND CONTROL OF MUNICIPAL SEWAGE INTO THE GREAT LAKES
COMPLETED OR IN PROCESS OF IMPLEMENTATION BY DECEMBER 31,
1975. CONSIDERABLE CRITICISM HAS BEEN EXPRESSED IN CANADA
OVER PAST DELAYS IN US MUNICIPAL PROGRAMS AND EXTENT OF
US COMMITMENT TO GLWQA. FOLLOWING EPA/TRAIN PRESS RELEASE
INDICATES IMPORTANT URSURGE IN US NATIONAL PROGRAM WHICH
WILL HAVE STRONG POSITIVE EFFECT ON OUR MUNICIPAL PROGRAM
IN GREAT LAKES BASIN.

BEGIN QUOTE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 1974

PRESIDENT DIRECTS RELEASE OF \$4 BILLION FOR WATER POLLUTION
CLEANUP

PRESIDENT FORD TODAY DIRECTED THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AGENCY TO ALLOT \$4 BILLION IN FISCAL YEAR 1976 TO THE
STATES FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF MUNICIPAL WASTE TREATMENT
FACILITIES.

IN A LETTER TO EPA ADMINISTRATOR RUSSELL E. TRAIN, THE
PRESIDENT SAID, "THE TOTAL RESOURCES OF \$9 BILLION THAT
HAVE BEEN ALLOCATED TO THE STATES TO DATE CONSTITUTE A
SIGNIFICANT ACCELERATION OVER THE LEVELS OF PREVIOUS
YEARS.

"TO MAINTAIN THIS ACCELERATED MOMENTUM, YOU ARE TO ALLOT,
AND MAKE AVAILABLE FOR OBLIGATION, \$4 BILLION FOR FY 1976."

TRAIN SAID, "THE PRESIDENT'S ACTION TODAY HAS A DOUBLE
SIGNIFICANCE. IT HELPS THE NATION TO KEEP ACCELERATING
ITS CAMPAIGN TO CLEAN UP THE WATER. IT ALSO HELPS PRO-
VIDE ADDITIONAL JOBS AT A TIME OF GROWING UNEMPLOYMENT."

A TOTAL OF \$9 BILLION HAS BEEN ALREADY ALLOTTED IN THE PAST
THREE FISCAL YEARS, MAKING \$13 BILLION AVAILABLE WITH
TODAY'S ACTION, TRAIN SAID.

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"WE ESTIMATE THAT THE PROGRAM IS PROVIDING 40,000 ON SITE
JOBS AND MORE THAN DOUBLE THAT NUMBER OF OFF-SITE JOBS,"
TRAIN SAID. "WE ALSO ESTIMATE THAT THE \$4 BILLION RE-
LEASED TODAY WILL RESULT IN 70,000 TO 80,000 NEW, ON SITE
JOBS BY THE TIME THE MONEY HAS BEEN SPENT."

THE 1972 AMENDMENTS TO THE FEDERAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL
ACT WERE ENACTED IN OCTOBER 1972. AS A RESULT OF THE COM-
PLEXITY OF THE LAW AND DELAYS IN GETTING FINAL REGULATIONS

PUBLISHED THE OBLIGATION OF FUNDS WAS SOMEWHAT SPORADIC FOR THE FIRST YEAR AND A HALF FOLLOWING ENACTMENT.

TRAIN SAID, "I AM PLEASED TO REPORT THAT THE PROGRAM HAS BEGUN TO SETTLE DOWN AND OUR OBLIGATION RATE IS BOTH STEADY AND AT A MUCH HIGHER RATE THAN IT WAS A YEAR AGO. ALTHOUGH FUNDS ARE NOT YET BEING COMMITTED AT THE LEVELS WE WOULD LIKE, THE PROGRAM IS DEFINITELY ON THE UPSURGE WITH INCREASING LEVELS OF ACTIVITY EXPECTED IN THE MONTHS AHEAD. DURING THE CURRENT FISCAL YEAR WE HAVE ALREADY OBLIGATED OVER \$1 BILLION AND WE EXPECT TO OBLIGATE AT LEAST \$2 BILLION MORE BY THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR. WE ANTICIPATE THAT MORE THAN \$4 BILLION WILL BE OBLIGATED IN FISCAL YEAR 1976." END QUOTE.

2. WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING REACTION, IF ANY, OF GOC OR CANADIAN PRESS. KISSINGER

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